Docket No.: HO-P02901US1

## ABSTRACT

The invention is a novel drilling fluid additive comprising particles of elastomer which are capable of swelling upon contact with a hydrocarbon fluid. The swelling of the elastomer is gradual, allowing the elastomer to reach the lost circulation zone before significant swelling occurs. Once in the lost circulation zone, the polymer expands sealing off the lost circulation zone. A method for preventing drilling fluid loss is also provided.